

9/12

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ruelle et al.  
Serial No.: Unknown  
Filed: Herewith

Group Art Unit No.: Unknown  
Examiner: Unknown

For: *Neisseria Meningitidis* Antigenic Polypeptides, Corresponding Polynucleotides and Protective Antibodies

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please enter this Preliminary Amendment into the record of the above-identified patent application before the calculation of fees.

In the Claims:

Please delete the claims of the application as filed in the PCT and substitute therefor:

31. An isolated polypeptide comprising a member selected from the group consisting of
- (a) an amino acid sequence which has at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NOs:4 or 6;
  - (b) an immunogenic fragment of the amino acid sequence of (a), wherein the immunogenic fragment is at least 90% identical to an aligned contiguous segment of SEQ ID NOs:4 or 6; and
  - (c) an immunogenic fragment of the amino acid sequence of (a) that matches an aligned contiguous segment of SEQ ID NOs:4 or 6 with no more than five single amino acid substitutions, deletions or additions;

wherein the isolated polypeptide, when administered to a subject in a suitable composition which can include an adjuvant, or a suitable carrier coupled to the polypeptide, induces an immune response that recognizes a polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NOs:4 or 6.

32. The isolated polypeptide of claim 31, wherein the immunogenic fragment of (b) comprises at least 15 amino acids.

33. The isolated polypeptide of claim 32, wherein the immunogenic fragment matches an aligned contiguous segment of SEQ ID NOs:4 or 6 with no more than a single amino acid substitution, deletion or addition.